

Message Text

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13
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

SS-15 HEW-04 DODE-00 AID-05 /075 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:MLCHESHES:OSG

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

NEA/IRN:MGREENE (SUBS)

NEA/PAB:MAUSTRIAN

IO/HDC:JBUCZACKI

AID/SER/INC:MMCBEE

DEA:AMCCLAIN

TREASURY:MBACH (INFO)

S/NM:DHERNST (DRAFT)

----- 025671

R 280118Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, IR, AF, PK

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL

REF: (A) TEHRAN 4556 (NOTAL), (B) TEHRAN 9458

1. IT IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO US TO FIND WAYS OF HAVING
AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN STEP UP THEIR EFFORTS TO CONTROL
NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING. IRAN IS THE RECI-
PIENT OF MOST OF THEIR ILLICIT PRODUCTION, BUT HEROIN FROM
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THERE MAY START MOVING INTO THE U.S. IF CURRENT EFFORTS IN

MEXICO SUCCEED IN DIMINISHING SUPPLIES FROM THAT SOURCE. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, IT HAS BEEN OUR DESIRE TO INTEREST THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO EXTEND ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN IN THE NARCOTICS CONTROL FIELD, PARTICULARLY IN DIVERTING FARMERS FROM OPIUM POPPIES TO OTHER CROPS. THE AFGHANS, FOR POLITICAL REASONS, HAVE INSISTED ANY ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA BE CHanneled THROUGH THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UNFDAC).

2. UNFDAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DE BEUS VISITED IRAN APRIL 28-MAY 4. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A COPY OF DE BEUS' FULL REPORT ON THAT VISIT AND ARE ENCOURAGED BY WHAT PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA TOLD HIM, PARTICULARLY AS IT MIGHT RELATE TO OUR OBJECTIVES IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. WE QUOTE

THE PERTINENT SECTION OF THE REPORT:

"THE PRIME MINISTER, WHILE POINTING OUT THE GREAT DIFFICULTIES OF SEALING LONG BORDERS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN AND PAKISTAN AND IRAN AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKERS, BELIEVED THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS EFFECTIVELY INTERDICTING DRUG TRAFFIC ACROSS THESE FRONTIERS INTO IRAN. THE GOVERNMENTS' APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM, WHICH WAS ACKNOWLEDGED AS BEING A BIG ONE FOR IRAN, APPLIED NOT ONLY TO THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF DRUGS BUT TO THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

"THE PHILOSOPHY WAS THAT IT WAS BETTER TO PREVENT DISEASE AT SOURCE THAN TO WAIT UNTIL IT HAD SPREAD ACROSS A BORDER WHEN IT HAD A MORE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON THE POPULATION OF IRAN. IN THIS SENSE THE PRIME MINISTER ACCEPTED A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT SIGNED ON 28 APRIL 1976 BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN, THE FUND AND THE UNITED NATIONS DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE THE RESULTS OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO DETERMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF STRENGTHENING THE AFGHAN BORDER POLICE AS AN ADDITIONAL MEASURE TO COUNTER TRAFFIC IN DRUGS FROM AFGHANISTAN INTO IRAN. IF THIS PROJECT SEEMED VIABLE THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION DESPITE THE SEVERE BUDGETARY

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LIMITATIONS WITH WHICH IRAN WAS NOW FACED. IT MUST BE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT IRANIAN ASSISTANCE OF THIS KIND COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED WHERE PROJECTS WOULD BE OF DIRECT BENEFIT TO IRAN.

"IN THE SAME CONTEXT, THE PRIME MINISTER ASSURED THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THAT HE WOULD ARRANGE FOR THE STUDY OF ANY PROJECTS WHICH PROVIDED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN WHICH

IRAN WAS INTERESTED WITH A VIEW TO SUPPORTING THOSE PROJECTS AND TO GUARANTEEING MARKETS FOR THE PRODUCTS. IRAN WOULD, FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, BE INTERESTED IN THE IMPORTATION OF VIRTUALLY THE COMPLETE RANGE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WHICH COULD NORMALLY BE MADE AVAILABLE BY ITS EASTERN NEIGHBOURS."

3. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD FOLLOW UP ON THIS OPENING. WE FORESEE THE POSSIBILITY OF INDUCING IRAN TO CHANNEL ASSISTANCE FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION THROUGH UNFDAC, SPECIFICALLY EARMARKED FOR THE PURPOSE. IRAN'S DESIRE FOR ITS HELP TO BE BILATERAL MIGHT BE SATISFIED BY EARMARKING AND BY POSSIBLY ARRANGING FOR IRAN TO HAVE A LARGE VOICE IN THE PROGRAM DESIGN FOR UNFDAC.

4. FOR GENEVA AND TEHRAN: WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON SERIOUSNESS OF IRAN'S INTENTIONS. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT WE MIGHT DO NEXT. AMBASSADOR VANCE WILL DISCUSS THIS WITH DE BEUS AT THEIR MEETING IN WASHINGTON NEXT MONTH AND ENCOURAGE HIM TO HAVE UNFDAC PRESENT PROPOSALS TO GOI.

5. FOR TEHRAN, KABUL AND ISLAMABAD: AMBASSADOR VANCE WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE THIS POTENTIAL AVENUE WITH EMBASSIES AND HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DURING VISIT HE IS PLANNING IN NOVEMBER IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED REGIONAL CONFERENCE. MEANWHILE, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF MISSIONS IN LATTER TWO CAPITALS COULD PULL TOGETHER AND REPORT WHATEVER COULD BE CONVEYED NOW TO IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AS TO NATURE AND DIMENSIONS OF CROP REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS AS WELL AS ENFORCEMENT UPGRADING. ALSO, WHAT WOULD BE REACTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS TO IDEA OF IRANIAN FUNDING OF SUCH UN PROJECTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND BILATERALLY IN PAKISTAN.
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6. WE HAVE READ REF (B) WITH INTEREST AND APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY GIVEN DR. DUPONT TO DISCUSS PROBLEM AT HIGH LEVEL. WE ARE COGNIZANT OF HURDLES TO BE OVERCOME IN PURSUING THE MATTER WITH IRAN. KISSINGER

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